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ROLE OF RESEARCH IN SOLVING HIGHWAY AND URBAN PROBLEMS

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Joint Highway Research Project

by

K.B. WOODS

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
LAFAYETTE INDIANA



Final Report

AIRPHOTO INTERPRETATION OF ENGINEERING SOILS OF
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY, INDIANA

TO: E. B. Woods, Director
Joint Highway Research Project

June 3, 1960

File: 1-4-60-32

FROM: H. L. Michael, Assistant Director
Joint Highway Research Project

Project No.: C-36-512

The attached report entitled "Airphoto Interpretation of Engineering Soils of Kosciusko County, Indiana," complies with the project concerned with Engineering Soils mapping, Item Number 1 of the project. The report was prepared by F. T. Tish, Research Engineer, and J. L. Martin, former research assistant, Joint Highway Research Project.

The soils mapping of Kosciusko County was done primarily by airphoto interpretation. However, the soil samples are justified by field investigation. To increase the value of the county soil maps, the major soil types were sampled and tests were performed in the soil laboratory. The soil testing data included grain-size analysis, plastic limit, liquid limit, optimum moisture content for maximum dry weight, shrinkage, proctor test and CBR. The soils were classified using the U.S.S. Classification System and the Bureau of Public Roads System.

An ozalid print of the engineering soils map and the legend, and the appropriate classification listed in a table of soil types are included in the back of the report.

Respectfully submitted,

H. L. Michael

H. L. Michael, Supervisor

HLM:cr

Attachment

cc: F. L. Ashbaugh
J. R. Cooper
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at large.

University. Finally, the picture would be warped indeed without acknowledgment of the truly great research contributions of the Bureau of Public Roads, the highway industry itself, plus contributions from foreign sources, as for instance, the British Road Research Laboratories.

Early Research Contributions

In 1938 this author (1) raised the question as to whether or not the Civil Engineers of this country could have handled a highway program of the magnitude of the current one, 30 or 40 years ago. A quick survey of the state of the art in 1920 and 1930 will show without question that engineering was not sufficiently advanced to cope with modern highway problems. Since that time, however, the collective research contributions of highway Departments, as well as the Federal Government, materials producers, aided by the great efforts of the Bureau of the Highway Research Board, American Association of State Highway Officials, and the American Society of Testing Materials, have made possible the ability of highway Departments to execute their present responsibilities with confidence and in general to meet the demands of this time. Indeed, during the past 15 years the credit of the Bureau of Public Roads and the Congress has been well earned in that to pursue basic programs of research have been provided. The results of these findings which can be used to guide the financing, planning, design, construction and operation of these modern highways.

In considering the present state of the science of highway engineering, however, it is surprising to note an estimated 500,000 miles of old pavements still in service--with a considerable mileage still being used as bases for newer pavements. Some concepts of basic design were developed and are being carried out through controlled test sections and test roads designed specifically for that purpose. Examples of such projects are the field experiments conducted by the Bureau of Public Roads at Arlington, Virginia (2), and Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. (4). At the same time the results from the "Bates Test Road" (5)

established a pattern of design which lasted until about 1945. During and after the second world war, pavements constructed under these design concepts failed badly, especially in sections of the country where clay-like soils predominated and under conditions of a high volume of heavy loads (39). The need for a new design approach was thus indicated (120, 121). Most recently, the Highway Research Board undertook a study of a road project in the Southern Maryland (3). The concern was the design of State Highway 61 which was a two-lane, so-called "U. S. 400" road (4, 5). The 23-million dollar project was conceived, built and is thus being, is still under test.

During this 40-year period in road research, a wide variety of highway research was performed in the laboratories in the Bureau of Public Roads, universities, State Highway Departments, private consultants, and others. The Highway Research Board "White Paper" was published in 1929 under the auspices of the National Research Council (established by the National Academy of Sciences in 1916). The American Association of State Highway Officials was organized in 1928. The first reports of research by the AASHTO (1, 2, 12). The only book published in 1929 was "The Highway Research Board" (13, 14), and "White Paper" (15, 16), and "White Paper" (17). Numerous papers were published on city streets long before the turn of the century and by 1910 considerable literature was available (18, 19). Brink (20, 21) was and certainly is a pioneer in the field and the author of many of the papers, and continues to be, in the great detail (22, 23, 24). Such names as those (25), (26), (27), (28), (29), Burton and Bendleman (30), Boyd (29), and Herzog (30-31, 32) began to appear in the literature during this period because of increased interest in highway subgrades. The classical work on the gradation of aggregates and the development of the well-known "Fuller's Curve" was published in 1927 (33) and 1931 (34). In the efforts placed on highway construction, research programs were expanded in all fields of materials research. Committee D-4 on Road and Paving Materials of

the ASTM was organized in 1904, primarily to develop methods of tests and specifications for pavements including wood block, granite block, brick, and bituminous mixtures. Committee C-4 on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates was formed in 1924 under the leadership of Sanford E. Thompson (33) but Committee B-18 on Soils for Engineering Purposes was not organized until 1926.

Soon after 1920 interest was evidenced in some of the broad aspects of highway engineering including finance (14), construction (34, 36, 37), traffic (31, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44), and the relationship of highways to other forms of transportation (45, 46, 47). The current great interest in continuing research on these and many other phases of highway engineering is indicated by the fact that over twenty-five hundred people were registered at the January, 1960 meeting of the Highway Research Board in Washington, D. C.



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A little later, in 1956, the author was privileged to report the results of his work as Chief Marine Engineer of a different station in five years of development.

the Bureau of Tests in the general field of highway soil mechanics (54). Included in this report was one of the early sets of typical embankment control curves averaged from 461 Ohio soil samples tested in 1934. This work has been continued and in 1954, Joslin (55) presented curves averaged from 10,000 samples. The curves are widely used on various types of earthwork throughout the country.

Other examples of cooperative work between the University and the Highway Department can be cited--however, these represent extraordinary cases and indicate a long-time span of interest on the part of both organizations in highway soil mechanics research. One has long been well-known to the public, and other members of the staff of the Bureau of Tests and by many members of the control office, and by members of one university staff in committee meetings of such well-known organizations as the Highway Research Board, the National Research Council, the American Society of Civil Engineers, The American Society for Testing Materials, and American Association of State Highway Officials, American Concrete Institute, Association of Asphalt Paving Technicians, and others.

Significant to the above mentioned cooperative programs is the fact that all three involved highway soil mechanics. Consider for a moment the potential of the entire spectrum of highway engineering is opened for joint research studies. Highway engineering, in the broad sense, stretches beyond the scope of civil engineering itself, touching as it does on finance, administrative, industrial, economics, engineering law and even the broad field of communication. These disciplines are in addition to the conventional Civil Engineering subjects such as Structural Engineering, Soil Mechanics and Foundations, Materials, Construction, Traffic Engineering, and Operations. The best schools and universities of this country and Canada are equipped, and are interested in being of service to the separate highway departments.

Cooperative Highway Research Programs

With the great scope of unsolved problems encountered in the highway field, it is only natural that the practicing highway engineer on the federal, state, and local governments and the professional staffs of the institutions of higher learning would become interested in joint research efforts. This idea has now been developed in the separate states of the United States and in some of the provinces of Canada. As a general rule, the cooperative efforts between Highway Departments and universities--and frequently with Public Roads as an important third party--have two main objectives, namely: (a) the solution of problems confronting the highway agency by the application of research and design, which may be immediate or long range problems; both basic and applied research may be found a part, (b) the advancement of engineering young engineers to postgraduate programs in Civil Engineering so that they may be able to continue through their own research and through teaching in universities or in the employ of federal, state, local government agencies, or the highway industry in general. It is important to note here that the highway industry itself has some considerable responsibility in contributing to research and development and to the fellowship programs of our colleges and universities dedicated to graduate education.

Many of the cooperative programs have been very successful. Iowa State University and the University of Illinois have had long-term informal arrangements with the Iowa and Illinois Highway Commissions respectively and the Federal Bureau of Public Roads participation in project design and construction. In more recent years, more formal arrangements have been indicated in both states.

Both formal and informal arrangements between the Highway Department and the college or university are common in the United States and Canada--and interest in developing cooperative highway research programs, with Public Roads as one of the sponsors is increasing rapidly. Among the states with informal arrangements can be listed Florida, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, and Texas. Various types of



Indiana's JHRP

One of the early cooperative highway research undertakings was the Joint Highway Research Project started informally at Purdue University in 1936 (5). In 1937 an organization was established as a result of an agreement between the Chief of the State Highway Commission of Indiana and the Dean of the School of Civil Engineering at Purdue University. During the first year the Commission had been \$25,000 per research and on March 21, 1937, the organization was authorized by an act of the State Legislature which permitted the Commission to allocate \$50,000 annually for the operation of the research organization. In 1938 the legislature revised the 1937 act, to insure the provision that the Highway Department may allocate to the University. The offices and laboratories are located in the Civil Engineering Building at Purdue University.

Close contact is maintained with the Highway Department through an Advisory Board. The Board outlines policy, receives and recommends projects, receives reports on projects, approves release of research data, and recommends to the Highway Department or the University the quarterly amount to be allocated. In contact with the program of research, the Highway Department members are able to guide the research endeavors toward the most pressing Indiana highway problems and to apply quickly the knowledge gained. In turn, the University Board members are better able to guide the University research toward the civil engineering research projects designed to contribute to the solution of highway problems.

The Highway Research Project is a unit in the Engineering Experiment Station and is administered by the Dean of the School of Civil Engineering, who also serves as Director. At the present time there are nine research divisions, as follows: Soils, Concrete and rigid pavements, Bituminous materials and flexible pavements, Airphoto Interpretation, Chemical, Traffic, Economics and Administration, Structures, and Hydraulics. These divisions are the scene of research work and the



area of research programs, and most of them are the sources of educational courses at the graduate and undergraduate level. At the present time, the staff of the Project includes 24 full-time employees and 15 half-time graduate research assistants. From 50 to 75 undergraduates are employed on a part-time basis to assist on research projects. In addition to the many lessons of education, etc., produced by the staff in the 4-year period of the Project's existence, progress reports have been released from time to time (57, 58, 59).

Some Projects of the JREF

In presenting a few highlights covering the work of the JREF during the Research Project, the research projects are divided into two categories: those of State and local interests, and those of State and National interest.

Soil Mechanics and Earthquake Work. An ideal area of cooperative research in the field of distribution and engineering characteristics of soils. This is especially true in the Midwest where strong research and procedure programs have developed as at Purdue University and here at Ohio State, for instance. The Ohio Highway Department of Akron is fully aware that one of the major contributions to their program was from the research on Indiana soils (61) published in 1949. A generalization on Indiana soils in the Midwest in this soil report of the Soil Survey Laboratory was studied and presented in engineering terms. Research has continued for the past 17 years in refining engineering soil behavior in various studies of Indiana (61). Where it goes, it goes to show that this work will continue to be published and as a result of the work of a new Indiana project which will include research in the field of soil research project with the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, the Ohio Conservation Service, and the Bureau of Public Roads. This kind of cooperative research is almost ideal for the state of Ohio. With increased research programs can be greatly ordered within the JREF by direct and continuous work (60) or be provided with a solid foundation in the field of soil engineering properties of the soil of the State and the National interest in the materials of construction.

At Purdue, interest has continued for 20 years in connection with the fundamental properties of soils, such as frost action (62, 63), soil strength (64, 65, 66, 67), base courses for rigid and flexible pavements (68), the pumping of pavements (69, 70), and soil explorations for highway projects (71, 72, 73, 74, 75). Included among some unusual soil studies is the work of Culberson et al (76), on deflection measurements made from deep-seated bench marks (76).

and the very interesting work of Bull and Baker (77) on the use of erosion protection for highway subgrade soils.

The Joint Highway Research Project also operates a large aerial photogrammetric station and photogrammetric research laboratory. This station is used to evaluate the art of airplane interpretation and the science of photogrammetric application to the location and planning of water works and highway systems. The laboratory is primarily concerned with the development of the use of aerial photography in water watershed characteristics, engineering soil types, location of exposures of borrow materials, and special applications of photogrammetry.

The State of Indiana has undertaken a project to obtain the required coverage of 1/24,000 topographic maps since 1945. This project, a large scale mapping project, in individual counties was initiated in the mid-1940's (78). The aerial photographs were used to delineate ephemeral and perennial drainage channels. The 92 counties have been completely mapped as a County drainage map with a scale of 1 inch equals 3 miles. A cover map of the State provides the data on the drainage system and drainage basins for planning purposes (79).

The photogrammetric station develops special studies that cannot be scheduled in the Highway Department's Photogrammetric Laboratory (80). Recently students have worked on such studies as the "Photogrammetric Measurement of Daylight Quantities in Highway Construction," erosion project in the planning of land-use development at selected interchanges on the I-65 corridor in Indiana to determine measures for right-of-way control (81). Some interesting work has also been completed in the use of aerial strip photography for various highway and airport applications, including the use of performance rating (82).



Concrete and Concrete Aggregates. A second very practical area for cooperative research is in the field of materials of construction. Each of the geographical, geological, and major political units of the continent have problems with materials, peculiar to the particular unit, and not necessarily in common with adjacent areas. Ohio may have problems in common with all surrounding states, i.e., Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan. However, it is likewise true that all of the problems with native materials in Ohio are not in common with any of these sister states. It is practical then to consider a state-wide, cooperative research program on the distribution and engineering characteristics of the materials commonly used in highway construction.

Using again the highway research in Indiana as an example, large laboratory and field programs have been underway for about 20 years--and the laboratory program are being continued. One of the early contributions was made possible through detailed studies of the performance of concrete pavements. The research produced a close correlation between the source of coarse aggregate used in the construction and the satisfactory or unsatisfactory performance of the pavements (124).

* This paper was chosen as the 1945 Highway Research Award.

Furthermore, it was observed that the susceptibility to blow-ups was an indication of the use of poor-quality, non-durable aggregates, which then, in some cases, resulted in short life--especially in areas of severe frost with subgrades of clay-like characteristics. This research was of great importance in developing specifications (24, 35) for portland cement concrete aggregates but it also had a significant influence on the design of rigid pavements in connection with the abandonment of the old practice of expansion joints. This work led to many detailed laboratory studies of aggregate and of concrete. Chemical investigations were reported by State (86, 87). Indiana limestone aggregates were further

studied in an effort to understand their performance in frost action. The study involved the porosity, permeability, and absorption properties of the materials and good correlations were obtained between these properties and the durability behavior. Some of this work was reported by Leach, Dolch, and Horne (77) and more recently by Dolch (88). The gravel aggregates of Indian origin have also received research attention with special emphasis on short and long deterioration subjects (90) together with corrective measures which might be employed (91). The use of concrete as structural concrete in the State (92) and fatigue of air-port concrete (93) have also received attention.

Pavement slipperiness and paving-stone design from this viewpoint are becoming very important as the volume and speed of traffic continues to increase. Materials from which pavements are made need to be re-evaluated from the standpoint of their resistance to the polishing act on a traffic (94). The ramifications of this problem are manifold, in any particular state, research is needed to assist the highway engineer in the use of materials and design of structures to provide satisfactory answers to the problem. The Joint Highway Research Project has undertaken preliminary studies to classify materials as to polish resistance (95). The situation with respect to this problem has been investigated to provide the information necessary to select one of the materials available. The most recent work on this problem concerns the use of available sand for producing mixtures for as-such. An investigation of laboratory sand-mix study has evaluated such factors as particle shape, water content, and sand grading (96). The cooperative study has not been carried to the field for the purpose of developing field data to correlate with laboratory results and thereby to establish specifications and design criteria (97).



Bituminous Materials Research. Bituminous materials and bituminous-aggregate mixtures are receiving increasingly greater attention in highway-research laboratories as a result of (a) continuous increases in the traffic volume and loads (b) increasing use of bituminous mixtures for flexible pavement construction and for resurfacing. Again, some of the research of the Joint Highway Research Project can be used to illustrate how a University-Highway Department cooperative program can function to provide research data for use in solving current highway problems. The basic, long-time program which has been underway almost since the inception of the cooperative work at Purdue, is concerned with the fundamental characteristics of bituminous-aggregate mixtures as related to their ability to carry traffic loads. In Indiana, this involves a very wide range of mixtures which are used under a variety of conditions of service, ranging from low-grade secondary surfaces to high-grade bituminous concrete. This kind of long-time program requires frequent observations of field performance and great effort on the part of the research team to develop correlations between performance and laboratory methods of test. Durability of mixtures is of course another important subject for research.

One of the outstanding contributions in this area of research has been the long-term study covering the evaluation of several laboratory tests relative to the design of the mixtures and performance of these mixtures under traffic. An early study of this kind covered evaluation of the Marshall stability test as a method of indicating strength values (93). More recent studies have been with an evaluation of the Hveem Stabilometer method as a strength test, particularly as applied to mixtures of the open type and as opposed to the dense mixtures to which the test is normally applied (99). In evaluating Marshall and Hveem methods, use was made of rational tests such as unconfined and triaxial compressions (98, 100). One of the most important aspects of mixture design for any construc-



tion agency is the evaluation of mixture variables as affected by the materials available for use. Many of the studies cited above bear on this problem (98, 99, 100). The evaluation of such factors as aggregate shape, both in the coarse and fine aggregate, is a case in point (101, 102). At Indian there has been a continuing effort to understand better the effect of local variables, as determined by service conditions, on deformation characteristics of bituminous mixtures. Temperature, confining condition, rate of loading, and repetition of load are the major factors studied (103, 104). The application of the concepts derived from such studies in order to give practical values to laboratory procedures requires close cooperation between the laboratory and the field and a close university-Highway Department relationship. Mix design procedures have been modified to fit the conditions in India (105) and performance data are obtained through test sections installed by the Highway Department and evaluated by Indian personnel (106).

Another area to which the research organization has been able to make a significant contribution concerns the durability characteristics of bituminous mixtures. The nature of this problem is such as to make evaluation difficult, but fundamental relationships have been brought out by laboratory studies (107). The application of the sonic test to the stripping resistance of bituminous mixtures, because it is a non-destructive type of test, has enabled considerable progress to be made along the way to solving this problem (108).

Traffic Engineering and Highway Planning. In recent years Joint Highway Research Project efforts in the areas of traffic engineering and highway planning have been expanded and the outlook is for continued expansion, especially in urban planning and transportation economics. These contributions to the land transportation system and specifically the State Highway Department of Indiana have been of major importance. Some of the studies which have proved particularly valuable are studies of highway impact, highway "needs," traffic accidents, the characteristics of traffic on Indiana highways, origin-destination survey, the location of slippery road sections, roadways of highways, administration and organization of State and local highway departments, and county highway planning.

The initial studies of the impact of highway bypasses are well known and specifically in Indiana resulted in a broader and wiser application of the principle of controlled access (109, 110, 111). Impact studies are continuing and currently an attempt is being made to evaluate the influence on an urban area of a major highway improvement and the impact in rural and urban areas of a section of the Interstate System. The Project staff with the assistance of personnel from the State Highway Department conducted a "needs" study of the highway system in Indiana, which contributed heavily to the passage by the State Legislature, and the almost universal acceptance, of legislation which in turn provided much-needed highway revenue (112, 113). Much information obtained in this study is currently being used in highway planning in Indiana and a sufficient portion of the study which was a part of the needs study provided the basis for the adoption by the State Highway Department of this priority tool.

In the area of traffic safety, recent research projects have developed relationships between elements of the roadway and accidents, and methods of analysis have been developed which provide for the determination of the causes of accidents at very high-accident locations (114). The collection of the results

of this latter research resulted in the finding and the subsequent minimization of a major cause of accidents at 27 out of 33 high-accident locations. Research just completed in this area has also produced a technique of accident analysis which results in the efficient location of slippery sections of highway so that they can be "deslashed." The method not only locates slippery sections but also assigns a priority of remedial action which considers the slipperiness of pavement and the volume of traffic on the highway. The technique provides selection of sites which correlated very well with the results obtained by the vehicle stopping distance method, a technique which also has been used by research in the Joint Highway Research Project. Staff members have also cooperated with the Metropolitan Survey Unit of the State Highway Department and have assisted in the performance of five urban origin and destination while at the same time using the data for research on methodology, analysis, use of these surveys. Street trend studies have now been conducted for the past 20 years and these studies along with a study of the volume characteristics of traffic have been of value to the Highway Planning Survey Unit of the State Highway Department. The Project also developed a roughometer for the State Highway Department and has delivered it to them for their regular and continuing use.

Local roads have also received attention in Project research and the development of practical methods of local road identification, classification, and priority of improvement have been developed (114, 115). In order to give assistance to local authorities of cities and counties a Traffic Engineering Service Unit has been established to advise and study local problems (117). This Unit receives many requests for assistance from local authorities and through public relations and subsequent improvements in highway travel in these communities are obtained with a small expenditure of time and money.

Other Important Studies. The Project also cooperates with the Highway Planning Survey of the State Highway Department by conducting some research studies



which are partially financed with Highway Planning Survey Funds. At the present time several such studies are in progress including research on the hydraulics of Arch Bridges (116). The breadth of Indiana's highway research program is further reflected by the work done in economics (119), finance (120), construction (121), and design (122, 123, 124).



Urban Research

Highway transportation is deeply involved with all other methods of transportation and especially with the entire problem of urban development. Work in this area needs immediate attention and your author strongly recommends careful consideration toward the development of strong programs in both areas. Many highway departments are already interested and there is much interest on the part of the Bureau of Public Roads.

McClellan in his excellent report presented at the January, 1960, meeting of the Highway Research Board (125) on his concept of a new pattern of urban development, states that "More than two-thirds of the national population increase is going into standard metropolitan areas outside of their central cities." He also concludes that "...shockingly little is being done to understand this major phenomenon of the times or to prepare for coping with its problems, or for taking the best of the opportunities it presents." Davis commented at the same meeting (126) that, "It seems obvious that research into the problems of the functioning of the urban system requires bringing into play the competencies of a number of disciplines..." In the transportation and related fields important areas need immediate attention. To name a few topics, consider some of the following:

1. The development of better standards and techniques for origin and destination surveys.
2. Operating and use trends, including costs, finance, and use.
3. Inter-community travel.
4. Parking and storage terminals.
5. Expressways, bypasses, subways, and use of helicopters.
6. Inter-fringe travel, trip length, and limited access.
7. Problems in the field of political science, including city and town governments, zoning, inter-government relations, authorities and commissions, and inter-agency relationships.



8. Legal and engineering problems such as land acquisition and control, use of eminent domain, building codes, government ownership, and control of traffic.

9. Economics - i.e., use of natural resources, residential-business-industrial patterns, land use, ownership of utilities, etc.

10. Public and private housing, and slum clearance.

11. Use of water for power, cooling, etc., flood control, sanitary engineering, and services and utilities, public health and hospitals.

12. Urban development in general.

13. Problems of finance such as taxes, rentals, bonding, private, state and Federal grants, bond issues, etc.

14. Problems of fumes and noise.

In looking at this problem it should be noted that much research has been performed and that a great deal more is underway. Publications of research findings are widespread including suggested programs of research (1.7, 1.11, 1.130).

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Conclusions

One of the best summaries this writer has seen of the value of highway research has been made by Davis (126) in his chairman's address at the annual meeting of the Highway Research Board. He summarized the report prepared by Mr. E. H. Holmes of the Bureau of Public Roads as follows: "With the exception of the estimated that research activity related to highway affairs in the United States in 1955 involved an expenditure of some \$1.5 million, which was only 1/1000th of the direct expenditures for highway (including design, construction, maintenance and administration) in that year of almost 10 billion dollars, the direct cost in research would thus appear to be only of the order of 2 miles per cord of direct expenditure in terms of a rather small population of 140 million. It is essential for many industries to be an adequate investment in the collection of future work."

It has been a pleasure to have had this opportunity to have been here. I hope my brief remarks will encourage some of you to pursue programs of highway research.

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